

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as not showing the V-shaped groove. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have removed this feature from the specification on page 4, and also from claims 4 and 5. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection is overcome and that the drawings are appropriate without modification.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim et al., U.S. Patent 6,425,273. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Kim et al. shows a lock with a rose 8, two positioning plates 32, a handle 16, a spindle 12, a return disc 48 and a return spring 20. Applicants submit that claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by this reference. Claim 1 has now been amended to describe in more detail the shape of the return disc and its relationship to the return spring. In particular, the return spring is now stated to extend through the notch, so that the ends of the spring exert a bias force on the positioning plates of the rose and where the notch has a width extending between the two ends of the annular wall where the width is smaller than the diameter of the return spring so that it cannot be disengaged. This is best seen in Fig. 3, where the return spring 44 is shown

extending between ends of the annular wall 41. The wall extends through an angle considerably greater than 180°. The notch is formed where the walls are absent. The diameter of the spring 44 is greater than the notch opening. Thus, the return spring cannot be removed through this notch opening. This arrangement is not seen in the Kim et al. device. In Kim et al., the annular wall is only fragmentary, which allows for the return spring to be easily dislodged. Thus, this reference does not show a notch having a relationship to the diameter of the spring as is presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Lin, U.S. Patent 5,372,025, in view of Kim et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that the Lin reference show a lock having a rose 20, two positioning plates 20a, a handle 2, a spindle 25, a return disc 31, and a return spring 32. The Examiner admits that the return disc of Lin does not include an annular wall and notch. The Examiner relied on Kim et al. to disclose the return disc with an annular wall and notch and return spring received therein.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious over this combination of references. In particular, the Examiner admits that Lin does not show the annular wall and notch arrangement. As noted above, Kim et al. does not show the return disc having the relationship between the notch and the spring according to the amended claim. Since neither of these references show these features, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious over their combination. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 2-8 depend from claim 1 and, as such, are also considered to be allowable.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Lin in view of Kim et al., and further in view of Gao, U.S. Patent 5,666,833. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Kim et al., and further in view of Kuo et al., U.S. Patent 5,788,296. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cites Gao to show an annular flange used to engage the stepped portions of a rose. Kuo et al. has been cited to show a restraining plate having a groove for cooperating with the bar to control the axial position of the restraining plate. Applicants submit that even if these reference do show these features, they do not aid the basic references in teaching the elements which they lack, in particular, the relationship of the notch and annular wall to the return spring. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims remain allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No. 10/820,116
Amendment dated October 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2005

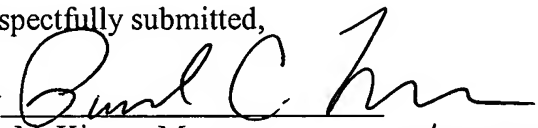
Docket No.: 3624-0163PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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